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**Title:**

Speech at the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the arrival of Lithuanian migrants in Australia

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SPEECH BY THE PREMIER, HON. DON DUNSTAN, Q.C., M.P., AT THE  
CELEBRATION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARRIVAL  
OF LITHUANIAN MIGRANTS IN AUSTRALIA.

25-11-67.

MR. CHAIRMAN, ETC.

I AM DELIGHTED TO BE WITH YOU THIS EVENING TO JOIN IN THIS 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARRIVAL OF MIGRANTS IN AUSTRALIA FROM THE POST-WAR DISPLACED PERSONS' CAMPS IN GERMANY.

AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR, THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHED THE COMMONWEALTH IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT AND EMBARKED UPON A PROGRAMME OF BRINGING ASSISTED MIGRANTS TO THIS COUNTRY. THIS PROGRAMME WAS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE RT. HON. ARTHUR CALWELL WHO BECAME THE FIRST COMMONWEALTH MINISTER OF IMMIGRATION. MUCH OF THE SUCCESS OF THE MIGRATION SCHEME HAS BEEN DUE TO THE OUTSTANDING WORK THAT MR. CALWELL PERFORMED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THAT NEW PORTFOLIO, AND HE WILL BE REMEMBERED ALWAYS IN THE

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HISTORY OF AUSTRALIA FOR THE SUCCESSFUL MIGRATION POLICY THAT HE ORIGINATED AT THAT TIME.

WHEN THE MIGRATION POLICY WAS INTRODUCED, THERE EXISTED IN EUROPE MANY PEOPLE WHO HAD SUFFERED THE TRAGIC RESULTS OF WAR AND THROUGH THE RAVAGES OF WAR HAD BEEN DISPLACED FROM THEIR HOMES, THEIR FAMILIES, AND THEIR FORMER COUNTRIES. IT WAS IMPORTANT AT THAT TIME THAT ACTIVE STEPS BE TAKEN TO ASSIST THESE PERSONS TO RE-ESTABLISH THEMSELVES IN THE POST-WAR PERIOD, AND AUSTRALIA CAN BE PROUD OF THE STEPS THAT WERE TAKEN TO ASSIST THOSE PEOPLE TO FIND A NEW WAY OF LIFE IN A NEW COUNTRY.

SINCE THE COMMONWEALTH MIGRATION SCHEME WAS ESTABLISHED NO LESS THAN 1,700,000 PEOPLE HAVE MIGRATED TO AUSTRALIA OVER THE LAST TWENTY YEARS. OF THOSE PEOPLE, 520,000 HAVE BEEN FIT TO BECOME NATURALISED AUSTRALIAN CITIZENS, AND INCLUDED IN THAT NUMBER HAVE BEEN 8,500 FORMER RESIDENTS OF LITHUANIA. I HAVE MENTIONED THE NEED FOR ASSISTANCE TO DISPLACED PERSONS AT THE END OF THE WAR

IN 1945. AUSTRALIA NOT ONLY FELT A RESPONSIBILITY TO ASSIST THOSE DISPLACED PERSONS, BUT IT ALSO RECOGNIZED THE NEED THAT IF AUSTRALIA WAS TO DEVELOP AS ALL AUSTRALIANS DESIRED IT TO DO, THERE WAS A DEFINITE NEED FOR A LARGE INCREASE IN POPULATION. THESE TWO FACTORS EXISTED, NAMELY THE NEED FOR DISPLACED PERSONS TO FIND A NEW HOME IN A NEW COUNTRY, AND THE NEED FOR AUSTRALIA TO RAPIDLY INCREASE ITS MANPOWER TO DEVELOP THE RESOURCES OF THE COUNTRY. IT WAS ON THIS BASIS THAT OUR SUCCESSFUL MIGRATION POLICY COMMENCED TO OPERATE.

AUSTRALIA AND AUSTRALIANS HAVE BEEN PLEASED TO WELCOME THE MIGRANTS WHO HAVE COME TO US FROM THE VARIOUS EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. THESE PEOPLE HAVE NOT ONLY BROUGHT TO AUSTRALIA THE BENEFITS OF MANPOWER, BUT THEY HAVE ALSO BROUGHT THE TALENTS OF THE ARTS AND CULTURE OF THEIR FORMER COUNTRIES. THIS HAS ENRICHED GREATLY OUR AUSTRALIAN WAY OF LIFE AND HAS ADDED TO THE ABILITY OF

AUSTRALIA TO TAKE AN IMPORTANT PLACE IN THE MODERN WORLD OF TODAY WHEN MODERN MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION NO LONGER MAKE ANY COUNTRY OF THE WORLD AN ISOLATED ONE. IN THE PRE-WAR DAYS, AUSTRALIA, BECAUSE OF THE DISTANCE FROM EUROPE, TENDED TO BE ISOLATED FROM THE ACTIVITIES OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, AND TO THAT EXTENT AUSTRALIANS MIGHT HAVE BEEN DESCRIBED AS SOMEWHAT INSULAR IN THEIR OUTLOOK. THAT STATE OF AFFAIRS NO LONGER EXISTS TODAY AND AS A CONSEQUENCE OF OUR SUCCESSFUL MIGRATION POLICY, I BELIEVE THAT THERE IS A MUCH GREATER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND THE MANY COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD FROM WHICH WE HAVE ATTRACTED MIGRANTS.

IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA, THE STATE HAS DEVELOPED RAPIDLY IN THE POST-WAR PERIOD. PRIOR TO THOSE DAYS, WE WERE A STATE LARGELY DEPENDENT UPON PRIMARY INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE ASSOCIATED WITH PRIMARY PRODUCTION. WITH THE OPERATION OF THE MIGRATION PROGRAMME, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BUILD UP A POPULATION WITHIN THE

STATE WHICH HAS ENABLED US TO DEVELOP A SECONDARY INDUSTRY COMPLEX IN SOME SPHERES OF WHICH WE NOW LEAD AUSTRALIA. WE SERVE THE NATIONAL MARKET IN MUCH OF OUR INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, AND BY FAR THE GREATER PROPORTION OF THE POPULATION IS ENGAGED IN SECONDARY INDUSTRY. THE SUCCESS OF OUR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IS EVIDENCED BY THE FACT THAT OVER RECENT YEARS, SOUTH AUSTRALIA HAS BEEN ABLE TO ATTRACT AND ABSORB 15% OF THE AUSTRALIAN TOTAL OF MIGRANTS COMING TO THE COUNTRY. THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT SOUTH AUSTRALIA HAS A BRIGHT ECONOMIC FUTURE. THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION, HAS TAKEN ACTIVE STEPS TO FURTHER PROMOTE THE ADVANCEMENT AND EXPANSION OF INDUSTRY WITHIN THE STATE, AND YOU WILL ALL BE AWARE OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BRANCH OF THE PREMIER'S DEPARTMENT UNDER MY PERSONAL ATTENTION, TO ENSURE THAT THE PROGRAMME OF DEVELOPMENT IS ACCELERATED TO THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE

DEGREE.

THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA ARE STILL GREAT PROVIDED WE CAN CONTINUE TO ATTRACT TO OUR STATE MIGRANTS TO PROVIDE THE WORK FORCE NECESSARY TO OPERATE THE NEW AND EXPANDING PLANTS IN INDUSTRY. BECAUSE OF THE FREEDOM WHICH OUR DEMOCRATIC WAY OF LIFE PROVIDES, AND THE GENERAL BENEFITS OF LIVING AND WORKING CONDITIONS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA, I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT WE WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IN CONTINUING TO ATTRACT MIGRANTS TO THE STATE.

I CONGRATULATE ALL THE CITIZENS OF AUSTRALIA WHO HAVE COME TO JOIN US FROM OTHER COUNTRIES. I EXPRESS THE APPRECIATION NOT ONLY OF THE GOVERNMENT BUT, I BELIEVE, OF ALL OTHER CITIZENS FOR THE CONTRIBUTION THAT THEY HAVE MADE TO THE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF OUR COUNTRY, AND I TRUST THAT IN THE YEARS TO COME WE WILL ALWAYS CONTINUE TO CELEBRATE WITH THANKFULNESS THE ANNIVERSARY TO WHICH WE DO HONOUR THIS EVENING.